

FILE - In this Nov. 30, 1989 file photo, Jules Loh is seen in New York. Loh, an Associated Press reporter who covered the civil rights revolution, the space program and other major stories before carving out a second career roaming the United States in search of the odd, the offbeat and the extraordinary, died early Sunday Aug. 29, 2010 at home in Tappan, N.Y., according to his daughter Eileen. He was 79.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

Former AP reporter, features writer Loh dies at 79

By RICHARD PYLE, Associated Press

NEW YORK — For most of his four decades as a reporter, Jules Edward Loh traveled the United States, reaching every state and using his honeyed Georgia accent to charm his way into the hearts, minds and lives of Americans, famous and obscure.

To write "Lords of the Earth," a 1971 book about the Navajo Indians of Arizona, he became so close to tribal elders that they named him Poputiney, meaning "Many Pencils." Back in New York, his irreverent colleagues at The Associated Press dubbed him "Loh, the poor Indian."

Despite numerous journalism awards by the time he retired in 1997, Loh said of himself, "I am a reporter, period. They can chisel that on my gravestone."

Loh, 79, died early Sunday at his home in Tappan, N.Y. □

Obama pledges Gulf support on Katrina anniversary

Read more on Page A4



Forecast to gain "major" Category 3 status, outer rain bands association with a strengthening Hurricane Earl were affecting the islands of Antigua and Barbuda on Sunday.

Earl became a Category 1 hurricane on Sunday. As of 5 p.m. ET, its center was about 150 miles (245 kilometers) east of Antigua and about 240 miles (385 kilometers) east of St. Martin. Its maximum sustained winds had increased slightly to 85 mph (140 kph) and higher gusts, and the storm was heading west-northwest at near 14 mph (22 kph).

The center of Earl is forecast to pass near or over the northern Leeward Islands Sunday night and Monday, the center said.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla, St. Martin, St. Barthelemy, Saba and St. Eustatius. As of 5 p.m., the government of Antigua and Barbuda also had added the British Virgin Islands to the warning, forecasters said.

A hurricane watch and a tropical storm warning was in effect for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, including the

islands of Culebra and Vieques.

Tropical storm-force conditions were forecast in the warning area Sunday afternoon and evening, with hurricane conditions expected early Monday, forecasters said. Tropical storm conditions were expected to spread across the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico on Monday, with hurricane conditions possible on Monday night. "Strengthening is expected during the next 48 hours, and Earl is forecast to become a major hurricane by Tuesday," forecasters said.

Continued on Page A7

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SECTION B	
Sports News	1
People & Arts	10
Business	11
Health	12
Classified	13

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9 years later, signs of life emerge at ground zero



A grove of sixteen swamp white oaks is planted at the National September 11 Memorial, Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010 in New York. After nearly nine years, life is returning to ground zero in a tangible way. Crews Saturday began planting 16 swamp white oaks at the World Trade Center site. They are the first of nearly 400 trees to be planted around the eight-acre memorial to the nearly 2,800 people were killed when terrorists attacked the twin towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

By ULA ILNYTZKY,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — After nearly nine years, life is returning to ground zero in a tangible way.

Crews Saturday began planting 16

swamp white oaks at the World Trade Center site. They are the first of nearly 400 trees to be planted around the eight-acre memorial to the nearly 2,800 people were killed when terrorists attacked the twin towers on Sept. 11,

2001.

The trees will dot a cobblestone plaza surrounding two huge pools built on the footprints of the destroyed towers. Joe Daniels, president of the 9/11 Memorial Foundation, was on hand at the site to help with the planting. He said designers of the memorial envisioned a lush and quiet green space that would bring solace to visitors.

“When people come up to the pools and see the names and be under this canopy, this forest, it will be a very peaceful environment,” Daniels said. Cultivated for four years at a nursery in Millstone, N.J., the 16 trees were loaded onto eight tractor-trailers at midnight Friday for the 35-mile trip to Manhattan. Several were planted overnight and into Saturday morning on the western side of the memorial plaza.

The memorial plaza will essentially become a rooftop garden, built atop the deep chasm left by the destroyed towers. It will cover the museum commemorating the 2001 attacks, commuter train platforms and a parking garage that are being built as far as 70 feet below ground.

The trees were irrigated and fertilized for four years at 15-acre nursery in New Jersey. Daniels said the swamp white oaks were selected for their beauty and their ability to withstand Manhattan’s cold, snowy winters and steamy summers.

The trees come from New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. — the places where the attacks hit. They were about 25 feet tall when first planted and are expected to soar to 60 to 80 feet high.

Once they are planted, an arborist will work full-time to prevent the construction site’s daily dust and clutter from damaging the oaks.

An elaborate subterranean irrigation system, with individual tubes running to each tree, will water and fertilizer the grove. The trees’ condition, soil moisture and temperature can be monitored remotely through sensors embedded into their root balls.

“Our expectations are we will have 100 percent survival of the trees,” said Tom Cox, CEO of Environmental Design, the Houston company that has cared for the trees and ferried them to the trade center site. □

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Memories of chaos, rebirth 5 years after Katrina

By MICHAEL
KUNZELMAN,
Associated Press Writer

SHELL BEACH, La. — Two strangers shared an umbrella and a somber embrace Sunday as they scanned 163 names on a marble wall honoring those who died in Louisiana's coastal St. Bernard Parish when Hurricane Katrina wracked the region. Gladys Nunez and Linda Wells didn't know each other before a service at the site — but both knew too many of the names etched onto the memorial, friends and neighbors who perished in the storm's chaos five years ago. Nunez wrapped her arm around Wells, who was visiting the site for the first time.

"I had to come see for myself and try to put this behind me," said Wells, 50, of Chalmette.

Nunez, 68, of Toca, said: "It's something we'll live with for the rest of our life. It never goes away. Katrina showed no mercy."

Memorials were planned across the Gulf Coast from New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward to Biloxi, Miss., to mourn the hundreds who died when Katrina hit on Aug. 29, 2005. For many, though, it also was a time to reflect on how far the region has come since then, everything that's been restored.

More than 100 people braved Sunday's soggy

weather for the memorial service in Shell Beach, where parish officials read aloud all 163 names on the memorial. After a moment of silence, Diane Phillips, 51, of Hopedale, volunteered to lay a wreath in the bayou. Some wiped away tears as the wreath floated away. Phillips had two cousins and several close friends who died in the storm.

"I didn't think of one person when we did the wreath," she said. "You think of the whole entire parish and everything that we lost that day and everything that we've brought back since then."

Indeed, for many on the Gulf Coast — still reeling from the massive BP oil spill — the mood is still one of mourning.

In New Orleans, the bells will toll at St. Louis Cathedral in honor of the dead.

Other ceremonies were to focus on rebuilding and moving on. A "healing ceremony" and march were planned in the Lower 9th Ward — where only about a quarter of the 5,400 homes that stood in the area before the storm have been rebuilt. Many still bear a constant reminder of Katrina, spray-painted circles indicating they had been searched and whether bodies were inside.

"I'm tired of the anniversaries," Barbara

Meredith Guy, 5, of Metairie, looks into a 'Katrina casket,' where people placed notes and items, after an Ecumenical 'funeral service' for Hurricane Katrina at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Chalmette, La., one day before the fifth anniversary of the storm, which took over 1,000 lives and devastated the region, Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010.

AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

Washington, 77, said Saturday at a symbolic funeral and burial for the storm in Chalmette, La. She lost her home in New Orleans and is now living in a suburb.

"I miss my home every day. I feel lost. But I also know we are getting back. We're survivors."

In the afternoon, President Barack Obama will speak at Xavier University — which, like 80 percent of New Orleans, was flooded when the levees failed. He will recall those who died and reassure those who have returned that he is committed to rebuilding. Other events were planned throughout the region, including a reunion of those who evacuated to the Superdome and memorials in coastal St. Tammany and Plaquemines parishes.

At the symbolic burial Saturday in Chalmette, mourners filled a steel-gray casket with notes, cards and letters.

One, written by a child in red crayon, said: "Go away from us." □



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Obama pledges Gulf support on Katrina anniversary



President Barack Obama speaks at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, on the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

By ERICA WERNER,
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Five years after Hurricane Katrina's wrath, President Barack Obama sought to reassure disaster-weary Gulf

Coast residents Sunday that he would not abandon their cause. "My administration is going to stand with you, and fight alongside you, until the job is done," Obama said to cheers at Xavier University,

a historically black, Catholic university that was badly flooded by the storm.

The president said there are still too many vacant lots, trailers serving as classrooms, displaced residents and people out of work. But he said New Orleanians have showed amazing resilience. "Because of you," the president declared, "New Orleans is coming back." Obama spoke five years to the day from when Hurricane Katrina roared onshore in Louisiana, tearing through levees and flooding 80 percent of New Orleans. More than 1,800 people along the Gulf Coast died, mostly in Louisiana.

Even as the region struggled to put despair behind it, hardship struck again this year in the form of the BP oil spill. More

than 200 million gallons of oil surged into the Gulf of Mexico before the well was capped in mid-July. New Orleans' economy, heavily dependent on tourism and the oil and gas industry, was set back anew. Standing in front of a large American flag with students arrayed behind him, Obama boasted of his administration's efforts to respond to the Gulf spill, saying one of his promises — to stop the leak — has been kept.

"The second promise I made was that we would stick with our efforts, and stay on BP, until the damage to the Gulf and to the lives of the people in this region was reversed," Obama said. "And this, too, is a promise we will keep."

But Obama's speech didn't offer any new plans for restoring the Gulf, bringing New Orleans' fast-disappearing wetlands back to life or cleaning up BP's spilled oil. Some residents had hoped Obama would take the opportunity to announce an early end to the deepwater drilling moratorium he enacted after the spill. But he made no mention of the moratorium, which people here say is costing jobs.

Obama did offer a list of accomplishments on Katrina recovery he said his administration has achieved, including helping move residents out of temporary housing, streamlining money for schools and restoration projects, and working to rebuild the poorly maintained levee system that failed the city when Katrina struck.

He promised that work on a fortified levee system would be finished by next year, "so that this city is protected against a 100-year storm. Because we should not be playing Russian roulette every hurricane season." Implicit in Obama's remarks was an indictment of sorts against former President George W. Bush's administration for its handling of the crisis. Obama called Katrina and its aftermath not just a natural disaster but "a manmade catastrophe — a shameful breakdown in government that left countless men, women and children

abandoned and alone."

But Obama has faced questions of his own about how his administration handled the Gulf spill, including accusations officials moved too slowly and deferred too much to BP. The White House has scrambled repeatedly to right the response, pleasing Gulf Coast residents with a \$20 billion victims' compensation fund Obama pushed BP to establish. But there is still plenty of skepticism among Gulf Coast residents about government promises, and Obama sought to alleviate that. "In Washington, we are restoring competence and accountability," he said. "We're putting in place reforms so that never again in America is someone left behind in a disaster."

Arriving without any new policy announcements or benefits for the city, Obama appeared to hope in part that his mere presence would reassure residents they were not forgotten. For some, it might have been enough.

Obama toured Columbia Parc, a development of attractive new townhouses that's replacing the St. Bernard Housing Development that flooded during Katrina. He met a longtime resident who had to be rescued from her home in a boat after Katrina struck. Several dozen demonstrators, protesting a shortage of affordable public housing, chanted nearby: "Housing is a human right."

And Obama dropped in at the Parkway Bakery and Tavern, a local institution known for shrimp and roast beef po'boys, which was underwater after Katrina. "I appreciate you coming here," one woman told him. He responded with a hug.

After his speech, Obama defended his administration's handling of the oil spill in an interview with "NBC Nightly News." The president said that "because of the sturdiness and swiftness of the response, there's a lot less oil hitting these shores and these beaches than anybody would have anticipated given the volume that was coming out of the BP oil well." □

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Body of Las Vegas woman found in clutter at home

By OSKAR GARCIA,
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — A four-month search for a missing Las Vegas woman came to a ghastly end this week when her husband found her corpse in their home amid a labyrinth of squalor that had been impassable even to search dogs. Bill James apparently had no idea that the body of his pack-rat wife, Billie Jean, was under the same roof as he helped police scour the home and the Nevada desert for any sign of her. Then he spotted the feet of the body poking out of a floor-to-ceiling pile of junk Wednesday, revealing in shocking detail the woman's

penchant for hoarding.

Police say they searched the home several times — even using dogs from a unit that helped locate bodies at ground zero after Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina. But they were unable to find the body of amid the piles of clothes, knickknacks, trash and other junk. “For our dogs to go through that house and not find something should be indicative of the tremendous environmental challenges they faced,” police spokesman Bill Cassell said. Clark County Coroner's office spokeswoman Jessica Coloma said it could take weeks to determine when and how the

67-year-old woman died. The husband has been cooperative throughout the investigation and quickly notified police of his discovery. One thing is not in doubt about the case: Billie Jean James loved to hoard. It's a behavior that has received new attention this year with two popular reality TV shows — “Hoarding: Buried Alive” and “Hoarders” — that chronicle the lives of people who live in absolute squalor because they cannot bring themselves to throw anything away. A similar situation could be seen at the James' home in a desert-front cul-de-sac near the Las Vegas Strip. In the driveway sits two huge trash

bins that require industrial-sized trucks to haul them away. The front patio is filled with knickknacks including old chairs, smaller trash bins and a 10-foot basketball hoop. Inside, Cassell said James' piles of clutter left just small pathways to walk and strong odors that hindered their search — generated by animals, decomposing garbage, food, clothes and other stuff. “If there had been any indication that there was a remote possibility that somebody was back underneath that stuff we would have taken the

appropriate action,” Cassell said. Sari Connolly, who walked dogs with James and her husband daily at a nearby park with a group of friends, said the woman bought things at thrift stores each day and accumulated them in the house. “She became this hoarder person and she wouldn't let anyone come in her house,” Connolly said. Connolly said one of Billie Jean James' closest friends once asked to use the bathroom at the home after a camping trip, but James wouldn't let her in. □

Arizona police say gunman kills 5, then self

LAKE HAVASU CITY, Ariz. — A gunman entered a western Arizona home and killed the mother of his two children and three others before fleeing with the kids to California, where he fatally shot himself, police said Sunday.

In all, six people died. Officers responding to the home said they found four people shot dead and two others wounded. One of the injured died of his wounds early Sunday at a local hospital, police said.

The alleged gunman, identified as 26-year-old Brian Diez, was found dead hours later at a residence in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. The two children — a 4-year-old and a 13-month-old — were unharmed at the house with relatives, police said.

Police went to the Lake Havasu City home after dispatchers received an emergency call at 11:57 p.m. Saturday from a woman who said an intruder had shot several people.

Police identified the dead as 23-year-old Deborah Langstaff, 24-year-old Primo Verdone, 42-year-old Russell Nyland and 20-year-old Ashley Nyland. Wounded were 20-year-old Brock Kelson and 44-year-old Deborah Nyland.

Kelson and Deborah Nyland were taken to a local hospital, where Kelson died early Sunday, police said.

At about 3:30 a.m., San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputies were sent to the Rancho Cucamonga home about a reported suicide. Deputies found Diez dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, authorities said.

Diez fathered the two children with Deborah Langstaff during a long-term relationship, but the couple had been estranged, Lake Havasu City police said. □



In this undated photo released by the Lake Havasu City Police Department Brian Diez, 26 of Havasu, Ariz. Police say Diez killed five people after entering a home in the Arizona community and started shooting, and then fled with his two children. Diez on Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010 was found dead in California of a self-inflicted gunshot wound and the two young children were safe with relatives.

(AP Photo/Lake Havasu City Police Department)



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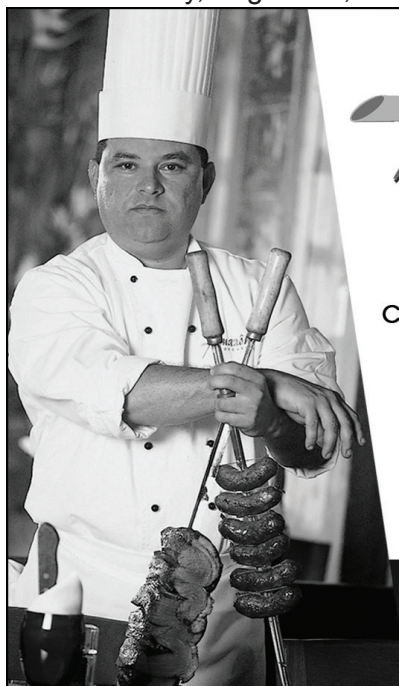
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AP IMPACT: US wasted billions in rebuilding Iraq



In this Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010 photo, a worker walks through the nearly-complete waste water treatment site in Fallujah, Iraq, 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad. The system is almost finished — at a cost of more than three times the original estimate and four years past the initial deadline. This site is among hundreds of projects funded by U.S. taxpayers that remain abandoned or incomplete, wasting more than \$5 billion, according to auditors.

(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

By KIM GAMEL,
Associated Press Writer

KHAN BANI SAAD, Iraq — A \$40 million prison sits in the desert north of Baghdad, empty. A \$165 million children's hospital goes unused in the south. A \$100 million waste water treatment system in Fallujah has cost three times more than projected, yet sewage still runs through the streets

As the U.S. draws down in Iraq, it is leaving behind hundreds of abandoned or incomplete projects. More than \$5 billion in American taxpayer funds has been wasted — more than 10 percent of the some \$50 billion the U.S. has spent on reconstruction in Iraq, according to audits from a U.S. watchdog agency.

That amount is likely an underestimate, based on an

analysis of more than 300 reports by auditors with the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction. And it does not take into account security costs, which have run almost 17 percent for some projects.

There are success stories. Hundreds of police stations, border forts and government buildings have been built, Iraqi security forces have improved after years of training, and a deep water port at the southern oil hub of Umm Qasr has been restored.

Even completed projects for the most part fell far short of original goals, according to an Associated Press review of hundreds of audits and investigations and visits to several sites. And the verdict is still out on whether the program reached its goal of

generating Iraqi good will toward the United States instead of the insurgents.

Col. Jon Christensen, who took over as commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region District this summer, said the federal agency has completed more than 4,800 projects and is rushing to finish 233 more. Some 595 projects have been terminated, mostly for security reasons. Christensen acknowledged that mistakes have been made. But he said steps have been taken to fix them, and the success of the program will depend ultimately on the Iraqis — who have complained that they were not consulted on projects to start with.

"There's only so much we could do," Christensen said. "A lot of it comes down to them taking ownership of it." The reconstruction program in Iraq has been troubled since its birth shortly after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. The U.S. was forced to scale back many projects even as they spiked in cost, sometimes to more than double or triple initial projections.

As part of the so-called surge strategy, the military in 2007 shifted its focus to protecting Iraqis and winning their trust. American soldiers found themselves hiring contractors to paint schools, refurbish pools and oversee neighborhood water distribution centers. The \$3.6 billion Commander's Emergency Response Program provided military units with ready cash for projects, and paid for Sunni fighters who agreed to turn against al-Qaida

in Iraq for a monthly salary.

But sometimes civilian and military reconstruction efforts were poorly coordinated and overlapped. Iraqis can see one of the most egregious examples of waste as they drive north from Baghdad to Khan Bani Saad. A prison rises from the desert, complete with more than two dozen guard towers and surrounded by high concrete walls. But the only signs of life during a recent visit were a guard shack on the entry road and two farmers tending a nearby field.

In March 2004, the Corps of Engineers awarded a \$40 million contract to global construction and engineering firm Parsons Corp. to design and build a prison for 3,600 inmates, along with educational and vocational facilities. Work was set to finish in November 2005.

But violence was escalating in the area, home to a volatile mix of Sunni and Shiite extremists. The project started six months late and continued to fall behind schedule, according to a report by the inspector general.

The U.S. government pulled the plug on Parsons in June 2006, citing "continued schedule slips and ... massive cost overruns," but later awarded three more contracts to other companies. Pasadena, Calif.-based Parsons said it did its best under difficult and violent circumstances.

Citing security concerns, the U.S. finally abandoned the project in June 2007 and handed over the unfinished facility to Iraq's Justice Ministry. The

ministry refused to "complete, occupy or provide security" for it, according to the report. More than \$1.2 million in unused construction material also was abandoned due to fears of violence.

The inspector general recommended another use be found for the partially finished buildings inside the dusty compound. But three years later, piles of bricks and barbed wire lie around, and tumbleweed is growing in the caked sand.

"It will never hold a single Iraqi prisoner," said inspector general Stuart Bowen, who has overseen the reconstruction effort since it started. "Forty million dollars wasted in the desert." Another problem was coordination with the Iraqis, who have complained they weren't consulted and often ended up paying to complete unfinished facilities they didn't want in the first place.

"Initially when we came in ... we didn't collaborate as much as we should have with the correct people and figure out what their needs were," Christensen said. He stressed that Iraqis are now closely involved in all projects.

One clinic was handed over to local authorities without a staircase, said Shaymaa Mohammed Amin, the head of the Diyala provincial reconstruction and development committee.

"We were almost forced to take them," she said during an interview at the heavily fortified local government building in the provincial capital of Baqouba. □

Volcano quiet for 400 years erupts in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A volcano in western Indonesia spewed hot lava and sand high into the sky early Sunday in its first eruption in 400 years. Government volcanologist Surono, who uses only one name, said Mount Sinabung *Hurricane Earl*

in North Sumatra province started rumbling a few days ago and the minor morning eruption had mostly stopped. It sent sand and ash up to a mile (1.5 kilometers) high but lava only moved near its crater. It caused no major damage and

“only dust covered plants and trees,” he said. He said Mount Sinabung last erupted in 1600, so observers don’t know the volcano’s eruption pattern and are monitoring it closely for more activity.

Leeward Islands baton down

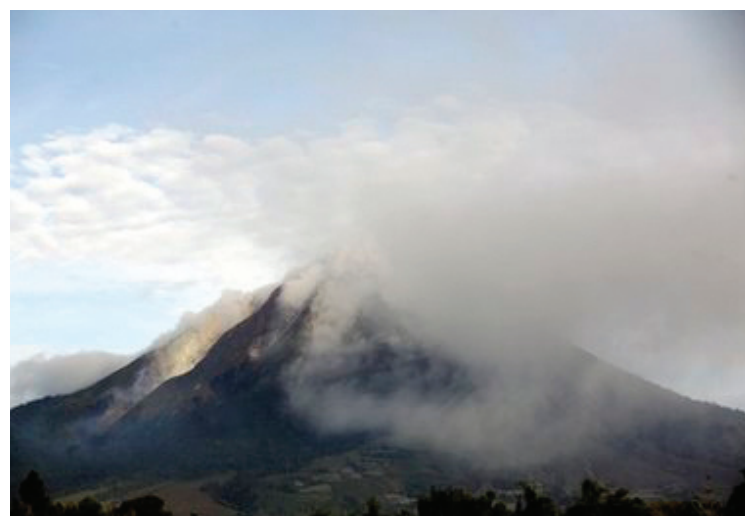
Earl was forecast to turn west-northwest and slow down over the next day. Tracking maps show it moving northward away from the Caribbean and possibly affecting the U.S. East Coast by Friday.

Easterners should pay attention to Earl, as it could affect areas anywhere from the Carolinas to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, over Labor Day weekend, said CNN meteorologist Jacqui Jeras. It is too soon to tell whether the storm could make landfall, she said.

Earl is expected to dump between 3 and 5 inches of rain over the northern Leeward Islands, with isolated amounts of 8 inches possible in some areas. Puerto Rico is expected to receive between 4 and 6 inches of rain, with isolated amounts of 12 inches possible over higher elevations. In addition, Earl is expected



to produce a 2-to-4-foot storm surge within the hurricane warning area, and 1-to-3-foot storm surge in coastal areas, accompanied by high surf. In addition, an area eastward from Earl could develop into a tropical depression and then potentially into Tropical Storm Fiona, Jeras said. □



Mount Sinabung spews volcanic smoke as it erupts in Karo, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010. The volcano spewed hot lava and sand high into the sky early Sunday in its first eruption in 400 years causing thousands of people living around its slope to evacuate their homes.

(AP Photo/Binsar Bakkara)

Evacuations on the volcano’s slopes started Friday at the first signs of activity. Up to 10,000 people who fled are staying in government buildings, houses of worship and other evacuation centers in two nearby towns.

The government has distributed 7,000 masks to refugees and

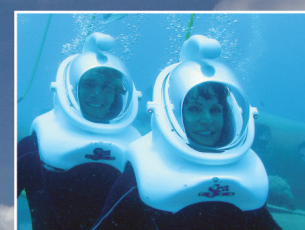
set up public kitchens so people can cook food, said Priyadi Kardono, spokesman for the National Disaster Management Agency.

Indonesia, the world’s largest archipelago, is on the so-called “Ring of Fire,” an arc of volcanos and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin □

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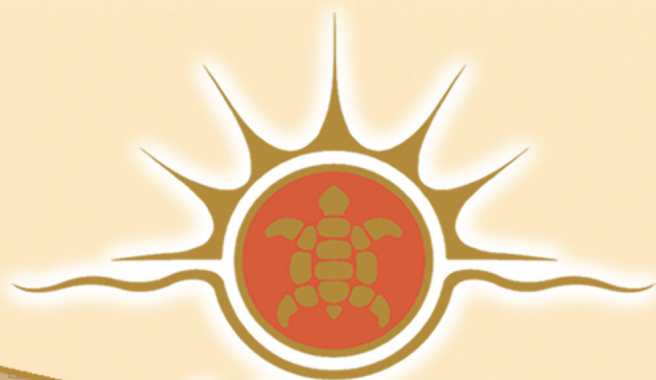


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7 US troops killed in latest Afghanistan fighting

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN,

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan

— Seven U.S. troops have died in weekend attacks in Afghanistan's embattled southern and eastern regions, while officials found the bodies Sunday of five kidnapped campaign aides working for a female candidate in the western province of Herat.

Two servicemen died in bombings Sunday in southern Afghanistan, while two others were killed in a bomb attack in the south on Saturday, and three in fighting in the east the same day, NATO said.

Their identities and other details were being withheld until relatives could be notified.

The latest deaths bring to 42 the number of American forces who have died this month in Afghanistan after July's high of 66. A total of 62 international forces have died in the country this month, including seven British troops.

Fighting is intensifying with the addition of 30,000 U.S. troops to bring the total number of international forces in Afghanistan to 140,000 — 100,000 of them American. Most of those new troops have been assigned to the southern insurgent strongholds of

Helmand and Kandahar provinces where major battles are fought almost daily as part of a gathering drive to push out the Taliban.

The five campaign workers were snatched Wednesday by armed men who stopped their two-vehicle convoy as it drove through remote countryside. Five others traveling in the vehicles had earlier been set free, according to a man who answered the phone at the home of candidate Fawzya Galani and declined to give his name.

Residents of Herat's Adrasan district reported finding the bodies early Sunday. They were later transported to the local morgue for identification by family members, district chief Nasar Ahmad Popul said.

No one has claimed responsibility for the killings, although Taliban insurgents have waged a bloody campaign of murder and intimidation against candidates and election workers in hopes of sabotaging the Sept. 18 parliamentary polls the 249 seats in the lower house.

In a similar attack in Herat, male parliamentary candidate Abdul Manan was shot and killed Saturday on his way to a mosque by an assassin

traveling on the back of a motorcycle.

Meanwhile Sunday, two suicide bombers attempted to climb over the back wall of a compound housing the governor of the far western province of Farah, but were spotted by guards and shot, provincial police Chief Mohammad Faqir Askir said. The men's vests exploded, although it wasn't clear if they detonated themselves or because they were hit by bullets, Askir said.

The explosions blasted a chunk out of the wall and blew out windows in the compound, but there were no other reports of deaths or injuries, he said. NATO said eight insurgents were killed in joint Afghan-NATO operations Saturday night in the province of Paktiya, including a Taliban commander, Naman, accused of coordinating roadside bomb attacks and the movement of ammunition, supplies and fighters.

Automatic weapons, grenades, magazines and bomb-making material were found in buildings in Zormat district along the mountainous border with Pakistan. Afghan leaders frequently complain that Pakistan is doing too little to prevent cross-border



Abdul Manan, a candidate for the September Parliament elections is brought to a hospital, after being shot, in Herat, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010. On Saturday evening in Herat province, a candidate running for a seat in parliament was shot and killed as he was on his way to a mosque, said Lal Mohammad Omarzai, deputy governor of Shindand district. He said two men on a motorbike opened fire on the candidate, Abdul Manan, who died of his wounds.

(AP Photo/ Reza Shirmohammadi)

incursions and shut down insurgent safe havens inside its territory.

Just to the south in Khost province, U.S. and Afghan troops raised the death toll among insurgents to more than 30 in simultaneous attacks Saturday by about 50 fighters on Forward Operating Base Salerno and nearby Camp Chapman, where seven CIA employees died in a suicide attack in December.

Insurgents wore replica American uniforms and at least 13 had strapped

themselves into suicide bomb vests, NATO said.

The early morning raids appeared to be part of an insurgent strategy to step up attacks in widely scattered parts of the country as the U.S. focuses its resources on the battle around Kandahar.

The Afghan Defense Ministry said two Afghan soldiers were killed and three wounded in the fighting, although NATO said there had been no deaths among the defenders. Four U.S. troops were wounded, NATO officials said. □

Chile miners must move tons of rocks in own rescue

By PETER PRENGAMAN,
Associated Press Writer

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile — The 33 trapped Chilean miners who have astonished the world with their discipline a half mile underground will have to aid their own escape — clearing thousands of tons of rock that will fall as the rescue hole is drilled, the engineer in charge of drilling said Sunday.

After drilling three small bore holes in recent weeks to create lines of communication with the miners and deliver basic food and medicine, Chile's state-owned Codelco mining company will begin boring a rescue hole Monday afternoon that will be wide enough to pull the men up through 2,300 feet (700 meters) of earth.

The first step will be to drill a "pilot hole" similar in size to the other three. Then much larger machine cutters will slowly grind through that hole, forcing crushed rock to fall down into the mine shaft area near the trapped men.

Failure to keep the bottom clear of debris could quickly plug the hole, delaying a rescue that officials say could take four months.

"The miners are going to have to take out all that material as it falls," Andres Sougarret, Codelco's head engineer on the operation, told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

In all, the miners will have to clear between 3,000 and 4,000 tons of rock, work that will require crews of about a half-

dozen men working in shifts 24 hours a day.

The men have basic clearing equipment, such as wheel barrows and industrial-sized battery-powered sweepers, Sougarret said. The hole will likely end up several hundred yards (meters) from their living area in the mine's shelter, giving the men room to maneuver and store the rocks, he added.

Sougarret declined to estimate how long the work would take, saying it would depend on how each step went.

Once drilling begins, the team will have to decide whether to fit the wider hole with metal casing, often used to seal a hole and prevent collapses in the walls.

"We may not have to use it in this case because the rock is really high quality, really strong," he said.

On Saturday, Mining Minister Laurence Golborne, reiterated the government's estimate of three to four months to rescue the men, rejecting local reports citing engineers who said it could be done in much less time.

Golborne said that experts had analyzed 10 different methods to get the men out.

"Up until now there is no alternative that would permit us to get them out in 30 days," he told reporters at the mine.

While it's unclear if the government is simply trying to under-promise and then over-deliver, there is widespread

agreement that the major drilling operation is unlikely to endanger the miners.

"If the area where the miners are didn't get crushed in the initial collapse, drilling this new hole isn't going to do that," Walter Veliz Araya, the geologist who was in charge of drilling the three bore holes, told the AP.

Mario Medina Mejia, a Chilean mining engineer not involved in the operation, agrees.

"The question isn't whether they can safely get to the miners," Mejia said. "It's how long can the miners wait for them to arrive?"

Normally, after completing a pilot hole, the opening is enlarged by drilling from the bottom up. The drill, hanging at the bottom of the pilot hole, is reached through existing shafts in a mine and then fitted with the machine cutters, which then blast through rock as they are raised.

In this case, however, there is no way to get those large cutters to the bottom of the mine; if there was a hole large enough to reach it, the men would already have been rescued.

Araya said that knowledge gained drilling the initial holes, which are between 20 and 100 yards (meters) from the shelter, would give the team digging the rescue hole a head start. For example, while penetrating rock, the circular motion of the bits causes the drill to veer right. In this



Chile's Mining Minister Laurence Golborne, left, holds a telephone cable to be sent through a pipe to the shelter where 33 miners are trapped alive inside the collapsed San Jose mine in Copiapo, Chile, Sunday Aug. 29, 2010. The trapped miners half mile underground will have to aid their own escape clearing tons of rock that will fall as the rescue hole is drilled, the engineer in charge of drilling said Sunday. The mine collapsed on Aug. 5.

(AP Photo/Roberto Candia)

case, the especially hard rock exaggerates that, making constant correction necessary, he said.

From the moment the mine collapsed Aug. 5, the trapped men have had a central role in keeping themselves alive — getting to the safety chamber, rationing food and keeping order with extraordinary discipline.

In video footage released by the government late Thursday, one of the miners says proudly that they will be helping with the operation, a sign that authorities have already prepared them.

Still, many questions remain. What physical and mental condition will the men be in when they are called on to help save themselves?

Sougarret, the operation

leader, said it will be one to two months before large quantities of rocks start falling. Can the men do such hard labor for a couple months just on food that will fit down the narrow tubes? And then there is what will be a harrowing rescue: each man will be pulled up through the 26-inch (66-centimeter) hole in a tube, a ride that will take about an hour each.

Psychologists have been called in to help the men cope, and families that watched footage from the mine shelter said the men had lost a lot of weight. Alberto Segovia said his brother, who is trapped in the mine, had already lost more than 15 pounds.

"He looked sad," Segovia said, reflected a bit, and then added that his brother also "looked determined to survive." □

Gun battle frees supporter of Nigerian president: police

LAGOS — Nigerian police have freed a prominent supporter of the president believed to be the son of an ex-prime minister after a gun battle with his abductors, authorities said Sunday, months ahead of elections.

The victim, Jhalil Tafawa Balewa, heads a prominent support group for President Goodluck Jonathan, who has not yet declared his candidacy for elections set for January but is expected to do so.

Tafawa Balewa, a physician and businessman, "was abducted late Friday by gunmen and taken to a forest in Katampe area, on the outskirts of Abuja, where we engaged the suspects and rescued the abductee," police spokesman Moshood Jimoh said.

There was a shoot-out with police, he said, which resulted in a number of suspects being wounded and arrested. Police first said three were detained, but later said two.

In comments to reporters, Tafawa Balewa implied that he was able to escape on his own, with police intervening afterwards, though he did not provide details.

"It was raining. I saw an opportunity and I took it. Then I saw policemen coming. I ducked. I did not know it was me they were coming to rescue," he said.

Abuja police chief John Haruna said the kidnappers had backing from suspects he did not name.

"These kidnappers are not acting solo...They demanded 100 million naira (661,000 dollars, 518,000 euros) and later reduced it to less than 10 million naira," he told reporters.

Tafawa Balewa is the national chairman of "Goodluck Na Kowa" (meaning 'Goodluck for all' in Hausa), a group mobilising support for Jonathan. □



Police stand guard in Nigeria in March 2010. Nigerian police have freed a prominent supporter of the president believed to be the son of an ex-prime minister after a gun battle with his abductors, authorities said Sunday, months ahead of elections.

LOCAL Aruba TODAY



Unique new entertainment concept to Aruba

Zissles Grand Opening a big hit



PASEO HERENCIA – Last Saturday evening, Zissles held their grand opening party for the public to enjoy. The former “Mr. Jazz” in the Paseo Herencia Mall has been completely renovated to host

a brand new concept to the Island.

Zissles introduces a new and exciting entertainment/dining concept to Aruba! Enjoy a three-course gourmet dinner prepared by



a masterful chef, served in style in a trendy nightclub. D’Licious treats guests to a two-hour journey through different musical eras; it is a spectacular stage production enhanced by professional direction, amazing costumes and choreography, talented international performers, and an extraordinary range of lighting and audio-visual effects.

D’Licious combines the grandeur of the former Moulin Rouge with the allure of international superstars. On Sundays through Fridays, Zissles brings to the stage this enthralling live show and

later morphs into a sizzling nightclub. On Saturdays, the air is electric with live performances, DJs and stellar acts changing every week. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Christmas in the Jungle

The Renaissance Convention Center Previews its Themed Holiday Parties



ORANJESTAD – A number of select decision-makers were invited to sample the Renaissance Convention Center hospitality as the party experts previewed their spectacular plans for the holidays.

Every year, the Renaissance Convention Center dresses up for the December rush of parties, ready to help host successful events, big and small, ushering in traditional Christmas joy and creative New Year's magic.

This year's preview on Friday evening was specially organized for local businesses and press members, offering them a peek at what the Renaissance Convention Center has to offer this holiday season.



Rufat Geerman and his banquet and catering teams at the Renaissance Convention Center, in collaboration with E2 Events and décor specialist Mrs. Edwina Werleman unveiled their themed plans, as the fully decorated ballroom transformed into a jungle,



adding Bengal and White tigers to Santa's menagerie, and trimming the old man's red & white hat with a touch of animal print.

The food, at the heart of any celebration, really exceeded all expectations, in rich variety and superb taste.

The impressive buffet occupied a large portion of the ballroom featuring a number of food stations, all interactive, loaded with local and international favorites.

On the menu for the upcoming holiday season, a great number of composed salads, and a tempting Raw Bar, starring several type ceviches, a mountain of iced shrimp, and steamed mussels, served with appropriate condiments.

Besides traditional Roast Turkey and Glazed Ham, the Renaissance Convention Center also features a giant Paella station, mixing fragrant yellow saffron rice with a variety of fresh seafood to order.

The Japanese buffet with just-rolled Sushi and sliced Sashimi, including smoked eel, octopus, salmon, crab & tuna, escorted by pickled ginger, seaweed and wasabi, features a live tempura Chef, frying tasty sushi rolls, upon request.

At the pasta station the Chef tosses a variety of tubes with Crab Claws, Octopus, Scallops and Shrimp, pairing them with famous delicious sauces.

Among hot dishes the Chicken Keshi Yena and the Beef Tenderloin are irresistible crowd pleasers!

The highlights of the dessert selection include a live Chef



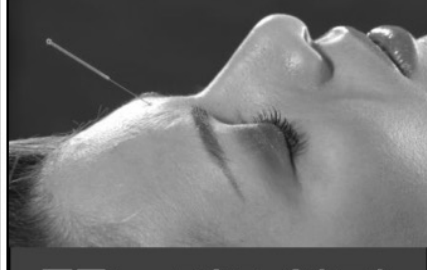
preparing flamed tropical fruit, tossed with liquor, paired with ice cream, traditional Yuletide logs, white and dark chocolate mousses and chocolate petit-fours, fruit tarts, marzipan specialties including a zebra striped, two tone, two tier cake, and mocha Napoleons.

The incredible spread is

complemented with an open bar and free flowing libations. "Book us," said one of the guests, representing a large Eagle Beach hotel property, we have been coming to the convention center for the past two years, and loved every aspect of the experience, we're coming again this year! □



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Co-authored by Aruba's
Carlos Viana, OMD, CCN

International Press Experience Aruba "Local Style"

Marriott Hosts 5 Press Members From The USA



PALM BEACH, ARUBA – From August 25 – 28, 2010 a group of five US press members visited the island of Aruba to explore the destination "local style". Last Wednesday evening, the group enjoyed a spectacular dinner at Marriott's beachfront restaurant Simply Fish. Thursday morning, the group visited the Balashi

Beer Garden where they were educated about Aruba's local brewery. They received a grand tour in the Balashi factory and learned everything about the process of making Aruba's local beer and other products. Afterwards they visited the amazing rock formations Casi Bari.

The midday was reserved for relaxing spa treatments

at Mandara Spa. Later in the day, the group enjoyed their first lesson in beach tennis from Aruba's beach tennis pro Bertrand. All journalists did amazingly well at the 'hottest sport on the island'.

On Friday the press members went on a Jeep Safari Tour with De Palm Tours, where they visited some beautiful spots in Aruba, experiencing the rough side of the island. The trip ended on Friday evening with drinks at local bar 080 Café followed by a farewell dinner at Driftwood. The Aruba Marriott would like to thank the Balashi Beer Garden, Aruba Beach Tennis, De Palm Tours, 080 Café and Driftwood restaurant for their cooperation and hospitality with this press trip.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms -- the most spacious on the island -- each



with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions.

Marriott and Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resorts is comprised of ten resorts in seven of the top tropical destinations in the Caribbean and Mexico -- Aruba, Cancun, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Puerto Vallarta, St. Kitts and

St. Thomas.

M A R R I O T T INTERNATIONAL, INC. is a leading lodging company with more than 3,400 lodging properties in 68 countries and territories. The company is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, USA and had approximately 137,000 employees at 2009 year-end. It is recognized by FORTUNE® as one of the best companies to work for, and by Newsweek as one of the greenest big companies in America. In fiscal year 2009, Marriott International reported sales from continuing operations of nearly \$11 billion. □



The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa hosts Manager of the Quarter Festivities

Radisson managers enjoy Hot Triggers Paintball Park



Aruba Resort Casino & Spa in honor of the resort's hard-working managers.

The outing to the Paintball Park in Barcadera served a double purpose, as a fun social gathering as well as an award ceremony.

The fun part was easy. Dressed in camouflage combat suits, and armed with paintball guns, the Radisson executives formed two teams, and played four games chasing each other shooting marking pellets, while attempting to protect their flag station.

Henri Barrau reports that while the games did not result in a clear win, the teams had a lot of fun playing DMW, Dead Man Walking, and strategizing behind barricades in their paintball gear.

Between games, the award ceremony recognized Lisa Dammerman as Manager of the Quarter. Dammerman, the resort's Weddings Specialist received a handsome plaque from General Manager Rob Smith, thanking her for her excellent performance, her "Yes, I Can Attitude" and her dedication to quality service. The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa enjoyed a busy summer, with a great number of couples tying the knot here while Dammerman took care of all details with the outmost attention. "Brides simply love Lisa," says Arianne Valentino

the resort's Director of Sales & Marketing.

Runner up Henri Barrau, the resort's Director of Security was also recognized for his tireless efforts and for

valuable contributions to his department and the resort.

Pictured here Hot Trigger Paintball Park, with Radisson executives on the rampage. □



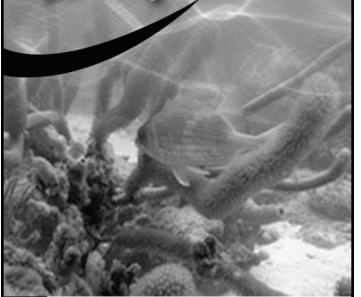
BARCADERA — A very entertaining managers' outing was organized by Angelique Croes, Human Resources Manager at the Radisson



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Jack McCoy Scholarship awarded

Interview with Jordan Harms '12

Hometown: Mill Valley, CA

Major: International Studies

Fun fact: Because of his interest in the American Civil War, Jordan visited battlefields on childhood vacations. "I think I went to Gettysburg four times," he says.

The Jack McCoy Scholarship, according to the Lint Center website, "recognizes emerging leaders who demonstrate a commitment to service, to building alliances of mutual understanding and cooperation in furtherance of creating forums for effective diplomatic exchanges that are rooted in transparency and reaffirm the importance of global governance." Wow!

Yes, I am very honored to have received it and grateful to Professor Andrew Michta for his encouragement and support.

Is international relations mostly a personal interest, or has anyone or anything in your life influenced you in that regard?

Most of it is personal interest, but my parents are a big influence. My father is an international tradesman and does work in the Caribbean and in Venezuela. I guess you could say that the international relations aspect comes from him. My mother would often give me articles to read, and we would watch programs on C-SPAN or on FOX about key

issues in international relations. She was the initial driving force behind my interest and provides a great deal of support in what I do.

Where did this passion for international relations begin?

It started rather oddly actually, because my original passion was history. In grade school I had a fondness for the American Civil War, and so I read a lot of history books that my grandparents gave me. Eventually that love for the Civil War turned into a love of military history in general. I even went on a historical trip to Normandy to understand World War II. I studied the Napoleonic Wars for a good part of my life. From there I sort of segued into Russia and Russian history. I was lucky enough to go to St. Petersburg last summer on the Rhodes Maymester Program, and I plan to return to continue studying Russian in the spring of my junior year. While there, I read Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky, and they gave me an understanding of the cultural situations in which political movements arose. Political history is what I focus mainly on now as part of International Studies.

You moved around the country before coming to Rhodes. How has that contributed to your passion?

I'm from California originally, but we had to move around the country

because of my father's business. I lived in Miami for nine years, and I made friends from Cuba and South America. When I turned 12 my family moved to DC, where I was constantly bombarded with international politics through the media and from living near the seat of government. I spent my high school years back in California and chose Rhodes because of its strong International Studies department. I wanted to go to a great small liberal arts college.

Where do you see yourself in a few years?

I'm still searching for a niche. I'll probably apply for a Ph.D. program at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. I might end up in government, maybe as a foreign policy attaché working in the Pentagon to advise the military on certain actions that could bring about repercussions regarding foreign policy. What I would like to do, whether in government or the private sector, is policymaking. I'd like to formulate foreign policy and try to improve our diplomatic relations with some countries, particularly in Eastern Europe. The Russian Bear is resurging, and I think that maintaining a stable relationship with that country is going to be important in the coming years.

About the 2009 Jack McCoy Scholarship:



The Jack McCoy Scholarship for Outstanding Service to Country and Mankind provides \$500 to recipients pursuing scholastic study in fields related to Counterintelligence, Cultural Understanding, Diplomacy, and National Security studies. This scholarship will be offered annually for four consecutive years.

This scholarship will be offered for four consecutive years and is dedicated to honor Mr. Jack McCoy; an American success story born out of the Great Depression, a veteran of the Korean War, and a great citizen who taught foreign students the intricacies of the English language and the complexities of American culture. For more information on scholarship application requirements, please visit <http://www.lintcenter.org/2008/mccoy.htm>. □

Aruba TODAY

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Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons. Reminiscent of a 1950s French café, the fully air-conditioned indoor dining room delights diners with its sparkling china, crisp linen, interesting bread baskets, and hand-painted tiles bordering the walls. A gracious staff, colossal desserts, and live jazz performed by Eddy Samson on piano add the perfect touches. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting. Now patrons have another charming dining option at the French Steakhouse—a tropical alfresco courtyard featuring delicious cuisine under the stars. Diners can choose from the restaurant's famed "Ooh-La-La" menu offerings, including creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry, and the pièce de résistance—South American and USDA beef specialties. Among other popular appetizers, the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple-mango salsa and the Teriyaki-Glazed Seared Duck Breast served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd-pleasers. The French Onion Soup is true to the restaurant's roots while the Honey-Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano, located at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa in the heart of the low-rise hotel area, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors at a reasonable price in a charming alfresco poolside setting. The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico, a 3-course dinner featuring an appetizer, main course, and dessert for just \$19.95 per person, plus 15% service charge. Patrons may choose between homemade soup and Caesar salad for the starter; between Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese, and any favorite pizza for the main course; and between tiramisu, cheesecake, and ice cream for the sweet finale. Of course, the regular menu

continues to offer delicious antipasto and salads, like the Calamari Fritti and the Insalati Bisto; hearty Italian soups; fresh fish dishes, including Salmone Affogaro in Bianco; pasta dishes, like the Tortellini alla Gorgonzola; pizzas; meat dishes, like the Fileto Di Bue alla Castellana; decadent desserts, such as the Cream-Filled Cannoli; flavorful coffees; and the finest Italian wines. Executive Chef George Hoek is the resort's much-appreciated culinary expert. He was the recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Shoco Award, presented by the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association in collaboration with the Digicel Group. The award is a national award of excellence and Aruba's top professional decoration in the hospitality industry. Open 7 days a week for breakfast and dinner, Giorgio's makes authentic Italian cuisine a reality on Aruba. Patrons are cordially invited to bring a healthy appetite. □

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents beach cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is widely recognized as the home of beach cuisine. Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a sun-splashed menu on the oceanfront terrace, raising the restaurant to must-try status. Inspired by American, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek, and Mediterranean kitchens, the menu lists favorite international dishes all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair. Patrons can choose from a variety of tasty starters, like Wings on Fire and the Fiesta Snack Platter. Pega Pega's Sun-Sational Salads—including the Thai Chicken Salad and the Caribbean Fruit Symphony—provide a light lunch alternative. From the sandwich

board come the Cuban-Pressed Chicken Sandwich, the Grilled Grouper Reuben Sandwich, the Cudarebo Fish Taco, and the Philly Steak Sandwich. Mid-day platters also include vegetarian options and a variety of oversized beef burgers. Pega Pega's tropical & frozen cocktail list leaves nothing out. A wide range of frosty beverages—from daiquiris, coladas, margaritas, and fruit or ice-cream smoothies to specialty blends like the Yellow Bird, Sex on the Beach, and the Cabuya—pretty much guarantees the perfect refreshing addition to lunch. A daily happy hour featuring live music is a great way to watch the sunset and kick off the evening. Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar is open on fabulous Eagle Beach every day from noon to 5 PM for lunch and from 11 AM to 11 PM for drinks. Patrons are cordially welcomed to enjoy the unrivaled views, caring service, and relaxed atmosphere of one of Aruba's oldest beach bars. □



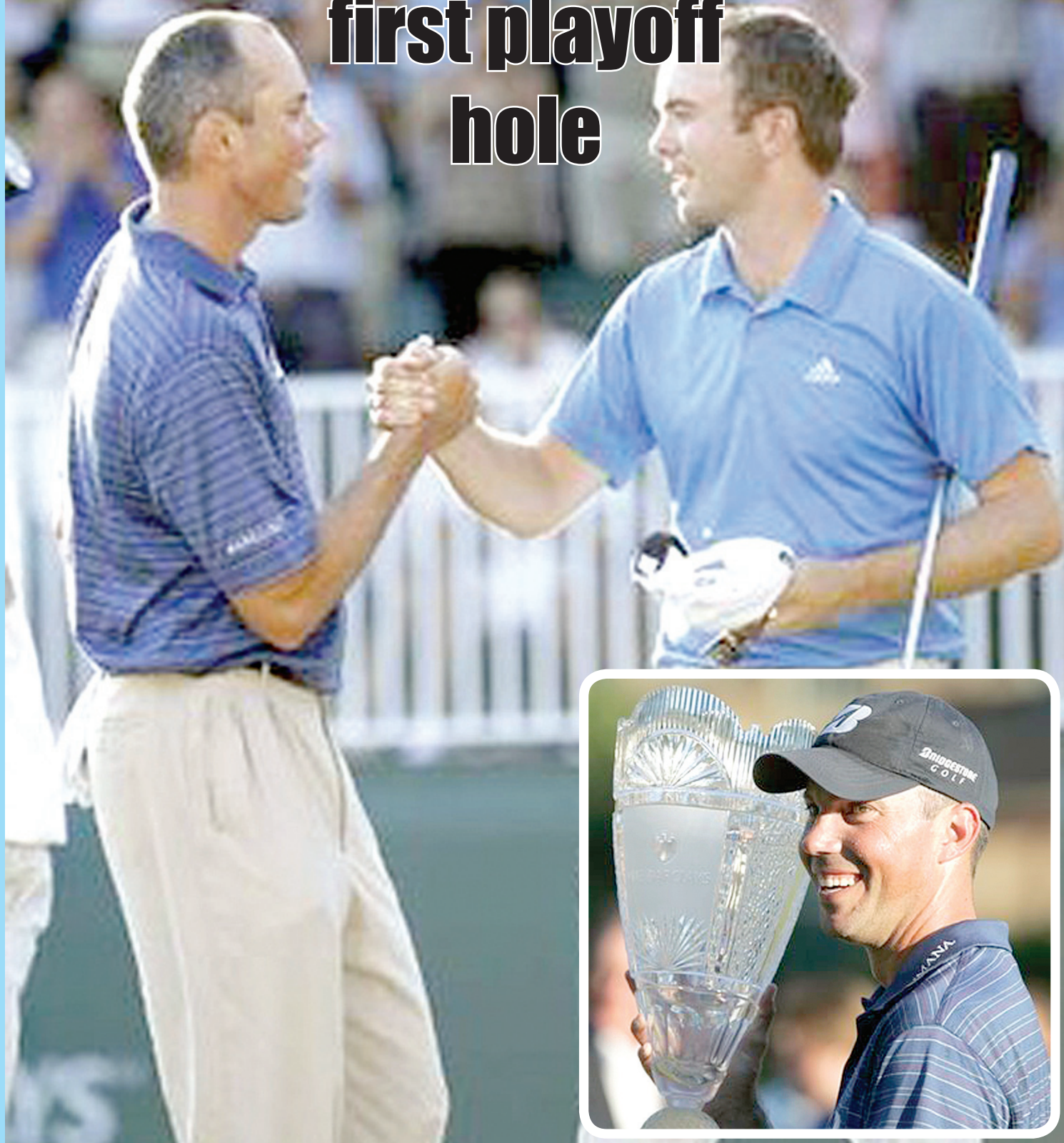


Bob Feller being treated for leukemia

CLEVELAND (AP) -- Bob Feller is back watching his beloved Cleveland Indians, a bounce in his step as he is treated for leukemia.

The third-oldest living member of the Baseball Hall of Fame at age 91, Feller said Sunday that he's "feeling better than I have in weeks," following two days at Cleveland Clinic and a week of outpatient treatment. "I just didn't have my usual energy, so I went in for a checkup and they said my blood count was low," Feller said. "I spent two days in the hospital and they gave me two quarts of blood. Then they gave me some pills, and I went back every day for a week. They injected three shots of chemo a day. 'I've got my energy back. I feel very good. I'll go back for a checkup next month.'" Feller was at his usual seat in the press box after missing the first five games of the Indians' current homestand. He burst on the baseball scene in 1936 as a 17-year-old schoolboy from Iowa. Signed for \$1 and an autographed baseball, the right-hander never pitched in the minors and spent 18 seasons with the Cleveland Indians, compiling a 266-162 record. He missed 3½ seasons at the peak of his career to serve in the Navy during World War II. He pitched three no-hitters and 12 one-hitters. In 1938, he struck out 18 in one game, a record at the time. Two years later, he pitched the only no-hitter on opening day and won a career-high 27 games. □

Matt Kuchar wins Barclays on first playoff hole



PARAMUS, N.J. (AP)—Matt Kuchar's fortunes took quite a turn Sunday, and so did his golf ball. Kuchar beat Martin Laird in a playoff at The Barclays with a 7-iron out of the rough that rolled toward the back of the 18th green, then caught enough of the slope to turn back toward the hole and stop 30 inches away for a birdie.

It was a stunning conclusion to the

first FedEx Cup playoff event.

Kuchar closed with a 5-under 66, and it didn't look as though it would be enough. Laird had a one-shot lead and needed two putts from just inside 25 feet for the victory, when he ran his putt 7 feet past the hole.

He missed the par putt, setting up the playoff.

The timing could not have been better for Kuchar.

His first victory of the year came two weeks after he made his first Ryder Cup team, and the win can only give him a shot of confidence.

Kuchar moved to No. 1 in the FedEx Cup standings by winning the first playoff event, giving him a good shot at the \$10 million prize. And his third career win is likely to move him to a career-best No. 10 in the world ranking. □

Vikings win as Favre has up and down Dome debut



MINNEAPOLIS (AP) -- Opening night is less than two weeks away and Brett Favre and the Minnesota Vikings are still trying to figure out exactly what they have in a banged-up receiving corps and a rotating offensive line. Favre's two newest targets made pretty good impressions just days after arriving in Minnesota. So did Seattle rookie safety Earl Thomas. Favre threw for 187 yards and two interceptions, one that Thomas returned 86 yards for a touchdown in Minnesota's 24-13 victory over the Seattle Seahawks on Saturday night. Favre completed 16 of 26 passes and took a couple of big hits while playing two series into the third quarter. His interception to Thomas went in and out of the hands of Bernard Berrian.

"We've got to find out in a short period of time who can make some plays in the passing game," Favre said. Thomas delivered Seattle's lone touchdown of the game and also leveled Percy Harvin on a slant over the middle. It was a big night for the heavy-hitting safety from Texas, taken by the Seahawks with the 14th overall pick over Taylor Mays, who was a standout for coach Pete Carroll at USC. "He made a huge play tonight," Carroll said. "I can't wait to see it again." As soon as the ball fell into Thomas's arm, "I was just thinking gas," he said. "Just put my head back. It was like Pop Warner when you throw your head back and run." The Vikings signed veteran Javon Walker on Tuesday and acquired Greg Camarillo

from Miami in a trade on Wednesday to bolster a receiving corps that has lost Pro Bowler Sidney Rice for eight weeks because of hip surgery.

Camarillo had four catches for 47 yards and Walker made a great catch over Walter Thurmond for a 25-yard TD from Sage Rosenfels in the fourth quarter.

"I don't even know how many people know my name, but it doesn't hurt to grab a couple balls and get a couple first downs," Camarillo said. "That's how you get trust from your teammates. Hopefully they'll start believing in me."

Favre, who was coaxed back for a 20th NFL season on Aug. 18, played eight series on Saturday night. He led the Vikings to one field goal and a touchdown, a 24-yard run by Adrian Peterson that was set up by a 73-yard kickoff return by Darius Reynaud.

Peterson finished with 37 yards on 11 carries.

Favre also lost a fumble when Chris Clemons blew past left tackle Bryant McKinnie for a sack that had the 40-year-old quarterback shaking his throwing hand in pain early in the first. But he remained in the game and helped the Vikings amass 242 yards of offense, but only 10 points, while he was playing.

Coach Brad Childress called the offense, which also started Anthony Herrera at center for John Sullivan (calf), "still in flux," which has to be a concern with the opener in New Orleans looming on Sept. 9.

"There are a lot of moving parts and parts that are just being added," Childress said. Seattle's offense sputtered along as well.

Matt Hasselbeck completed nine of 17 passes for 126 yards, 42 coming on a completion to Mike Williams in the third quarter.

More importantly, he left after two series in the third quarter without a scratch on him.

The Vikings also had to be encouraged by Harvin's return. The reigning offensive rookie of the year has only practiced six times this preseason because of recurring migraine headaches, including a bout that caused trainers to call an ambulance to practice just over a week ago.

"I did a test last night and they found some things that we think was the main cause of it," Harvin said. "We're feeling really confident. I know we said that a couple times, but I think this time we found what the main cause was. I'm not saying I'll never get a headache again, but hopefully we can slow it down a little bit."

Harvin had two catches for 30 yards. He also took two big hits to the head, one from Lofa Tatupu that knocked his helmet off and the one from Thomas that broke up a pass in the third quarter.

"We drafted him because he's a playmaker," Carroll said. "He was the best playmaker in the country. He played much better tonight than he did last week so I was really happy for him." □



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Japan topples Hawaii, wins LLWS championship



S O U T H
WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) -- Japan has ended the United States' five-year reign as Little League World Series champions. The team from Tokyo limited Waipahu, Hawaii, to four singles in a 4-1 win in the title game Sunday. Japan won thanks to excellent pitching and defense, plus a homer and three RBIs from



Konan Tomori. The last international team to win the World Series was Curacao in 2004. The last time a team from Japan won

was 2003. Hawaii cut the lead to 2-1 in the fourth after a throwing error, but lefty reliever Ichiro Ogasawara got a strikeout and bouncer to end the threat. The

12-year-old Tomori added two insurance runs with his sixth-inning homer. Starter Cody Maltezo allowed four hits and struck out four to lead Hawaii. □

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Zlatan Ibrahimovic leaves Barca for AC Milan



MILAN (AP) -- AC Milan reached a deal with Barcelona to bring Zlatan Ibrahimovic back to Serie A on Saturday, potentially altering the balance of power in the Italian league on the opening day of the season.

Milan announced that Ibrahimovic will join the team on a free loan this season, after which it will have the option to pay Barcelona \$30.5 million

for his full transfer.

"Milan is one of the best clubs in the world, for the squad and the tradition that it has," Ibrahimovic was quoted by the ANSA news agency as saying. "With (Alexandre) Pato and Ronaldinho we have a fantastic attack. I think the Milan fans will have fun at the stadium with the three of us." Ibrahimovic played for Juventus and Inter Milan before

joining the Spanish champions last season in a \$66 million deal that sent striker Samuel Eto'o to Inter. He scored 21 goals in all competitions but often struggled to fit into Barcelona's intricate passing schemes.

Milan said Ibrahimovic would undergo medical tests Monday and then sign a four-year contract.

Milan president and Italian



Premier Silvio Berlusconi visited the squad Saturday to inform the team personally of the acquisition and was put through directly to Ibrahimovic on a phone call in front of the players -- then left in a helicopter.

Milan opens the season against newly promoted Lecce on Sunday. Until this deal, Ibrahimovic's former club Inter - the five-time defending

champion -- was considered the undisputed favorite for the Serie A title.

Now Milan could challenge its city rival.

Ibrahimovic insisted he is not worried what Inter fans will think.

"I don't think they're worried about me, considering all that they've won," Ibrahimovic said. "This situation that has created itself at Barcelona has given me a lot of adrenaline and now my dream is to win everything with Milan."

Ibrahimovic is Milan's most expensive acquisition since paying Parma the same price for Alberto Gilardino in 2005.

Milan already has three high-profile forwards in Pato, Ronaldinho and Marco Borriello - not to mention reserves like 37-year-old Filippo Inzaghi and Klaas-Jan Huntelaar - but coach Massimiliano Allegri was not worried about having too many options to choose from. "Ibrahimovic is a champion and the more champions we have the easier it is to win matches," Allegri said. "We have one of the best attacks in Europe."

The 28-year-old Ibrahimovic began his career in his native Sweden with his hometown club Malmo before shooting to European fame with Ajax. He joined Juventus in 2004 and won two Serie A titles with the Turin side, although both were revoked due to the Italian match-fixing scandal.

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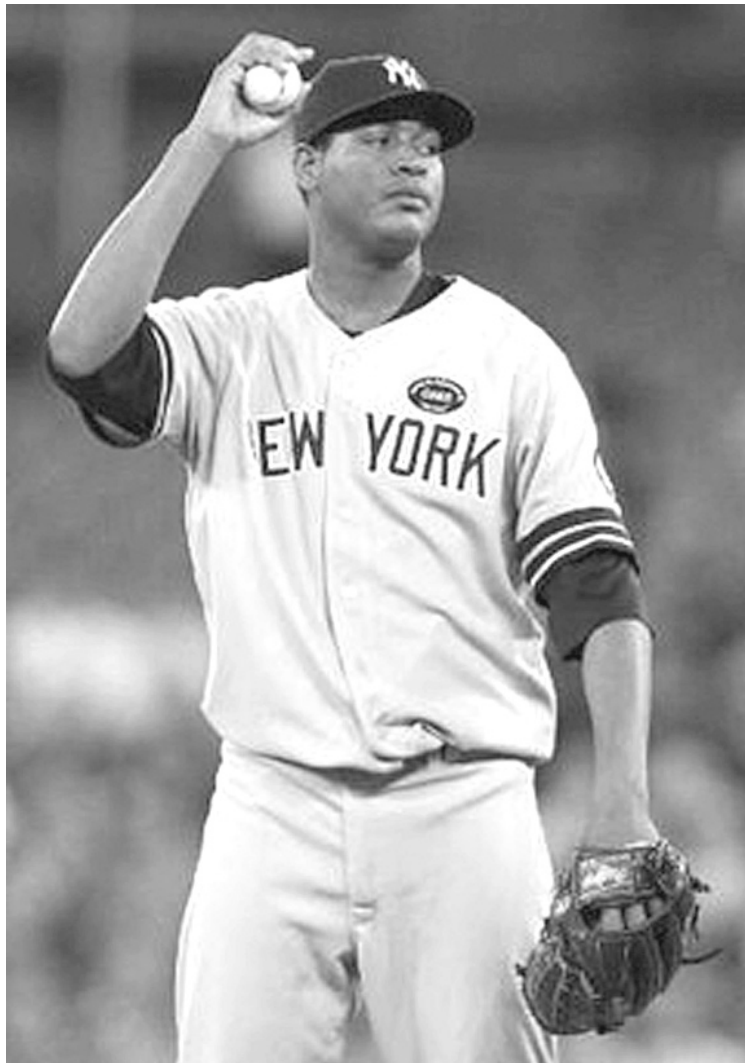
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Mark Teixeira out with bruised thumb

Nova gets first win



CHICAGO (AP) -- Mark Teixeira was scratched from the New York Yankees' lineup against the Chicago White Sox because of a bruised right thumb.

He was penciled in to bat third and play first Sunday after leaving the previous night's game, but the plan changed after batting practice.

Teixeira, batting .257 with 28 homers and 91 RBIs, left after fielding Gordon Beckham's routine grounder to end the second inning Saturday. He injured his thumb Friday while making a diving stop.

Nick Swisher moved from right field to first and from fifth in the order to third, with Austin Kearns starting in right and batting seventh.

Meanwhile, pitcher Andy Pettitte, out with a groin injury, says he could return in two weeks at the earliest after

throwing 35 pitches in a bullpen session. He will throw again on Tuesday or Wednesday.

NOVA WINNER

Ivan Nova attracted headlines for all the right reasons this time.

He set aside any worries he had about a Major League Baseball investigation and earned his first career win, Marcus Thames hit another homer and the New York Yankees beat the Chicago White Sox 2-1 on Sunday.



It was an impressive outing for Nova (1-0), who allowed one run and five hits with seven strikeouts and one walk in 5 2-3 innings. " (We're) asking a young man to step up and that's exactly what he's doing," manager Joe Girardi said.

He outpitched Gavin Floyd (9-11) in his second start, a day after reports surfaced that the league is investigating him and a former minor league teammate for allegedly injecting each other with B-12 shots.

The vitamin is not on baseball's list of banned substances.

MLB is focused on the issue of whether Nova and pitcher Wilkin De La Rosa injected each other last season at Double-A Trenton and wants to

make certain the shots were in fact B-12. The New York Post first reported the story.

Nova wouldn't discuss the

investigation, although he did say " it's nice" to get the win after the reports the previous day. □



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Shanahan unsure if McNabb's ankle will be OK for opener vs. Cowboys



ASHBURN, Va. (AP) -- It could be a smoke screen or just a cautious assessment of his quarterback's health, but Mike Shanahan says he's not certain that Donovan McNabb will be available for the Washington Redskins' season opener against the Dallas Cowboys. "I really don't know for sure," Shanahan said Sunday. "That's why it's day by day. We'll see how it goes."

McNabb hasn't practiced since spraining his left ankle in the second preseason game against Baltimore. He sat out Friday's game against the New York Jets and watched Sunday's practice with a black sleeve on his left leg.

Shanahan said the leg is too sore for McNabb to play this week against the Arizona Cardinals, but McNabb likely wouldn't have played in that game anyway because the coach prefers to rest his starter in the final exhibition to avoid injury.

However, backup quarterback Rex Grossman said he won't play this week either, perhaps as an insurance policy to make



sure at least one of the top two quarterbacks on the roster is ready to go against the Cowboys on Sept. 12. That leaves bubble quarterbacks John Beck and Richard Bartel taking the snaps Thursday at Arizona. The news from Shanahan was more positive concerning running back Clinton Portis, who sprained his right ankle against the Jets.

"I don't think it's too

serious. It's not a big setback," Shanahan said. "I would anticipate him being able to practice in a couple of days."

Fullback Mike Sellers, who missed the Jets game, remains day to day with a sprained left knee. Backup linebacker Perry Riley sprained his right ankle against New York and was wearing a walking boot Sunday. □



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13-Year-Old Youngest to die at Indy

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An accomplished 13-year-old motorcycle racer died Sunday after he fell off his bike and was run over by another motorcycle at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The racer, Peter Lenz of Vancouver, Wash., was pronounced dead by the Marion County coroner, who said Lenz had sustained "traumatic injuries." Lenz crashed on a warm-up lap before his race and was struck by 12-year-old Xavier Zayat, who was uninjured.

Medical workers immediately placed Lenz in a neck brace, put him on a stretcher and began chest compressions while taking him to a hospital. The coroner confirmed his death about three hours later. It was the first death of a competitor at the speedway since the IndyCar driver Tony Renna was killed in October 2003.

A posting on Lenz's Facebook

page, signed, "Dad," read: "Peter passed away early this morning when he was apparently struck by another rider. He passed doing what he loved and had his go fast face on as he pulled onto the track. The world lost one of its brightest lights today."

It was not clear whether his parents were in Indianapolis, and no home telephone number for the family was listed. Track officials confirmed that Lenz was the youngest racer killed at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, which opened in 1909 and has been used by numerous series.

"We would like to thank Peter's friends and supporters for all their help throughout the years," the family said in a statement. "We are deeply saddened by the loss but know that Peter is racing even faster in the sky."

The crash delayed the United States Grand Prix Racers Union event in which Lenz



was to ride, but three races sanctioned by the MotoGP Series started on time.

Lenz had ridden six years, winning nine national titles, and appeared to be a rising star in a series that bills itself as a prep for riders 12 to 18.

The fatal accident could spark a debate about how young is too young for racers to

be competing on one of the world's best-known tracks, whether inside a car or riding a motorcycle capable of speeds well over 100 miles per hour. Speedway officials pointed out that East Coast Region riders also competed at Virginia International Raceway, and the West Coast Region holds races at Miller Motorsports

Park in Utah and Portland International Raceway in Oregon.

Hot, dry weather this weekend made Indianapolis Motor Speedway's bumpy, 2.621-mile course slick and challenging. The reigning world champion Valentino Rossi had fallen four times since practice opened Friday.



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Brazilian stadium torn down for new World Cup venue



50,000 capacity. Officials used 700 kilograms of explosives to bring down the Fonte Nova stadium in the northeastern city of Salvador on Sunday. Seven fans died there and 40 were injured after falling nearly 50 feet through a 3-meter (10-foot) wide hole that opened in the concrete stands in 2007. On Saturday, authorities said a new venue will be built in Sao Paulo by Brazilian team Corinthians to accommodate the World Cup's opening match. □

SAO PAULO (AP) -The people died after part of the years ago has been torn down. World Cup will be built in the same location and have a
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Three players suspended for separate incidents



NEW YORK (AP) -- Brandon Rush of the Indiana Pacers was suspended for five games by the NBA on Friday for violating the league's drug agreement, while Tyreke Evans of the Sacramento Kings and Kenny Hasbrouck of the Miami Heat drew suspensions for driving offenses. Rush was suspended without pay for five games for violating the terms of the NBA/NBPA Anti-Drug Program. He started 64 games for the Pacers last season and averaged 9.4 points. Pacers president Larry Bird said in a statement that the organization would support Rush. "We have been made aware that Brandon Rush has been suspended for violating the NBA's anti-drug policy," Bird said. "We will do what we can to provide Brandon help going forward."

Evans, the NBA's Rookie of the Year, was suspended without pay for one game for pleading no contest to reckless driving in California. He

averaged 20.1 points last season.

Hasbrouck, a former Siena guard, was suspended without pay for two games for pleading guilty to driving while intoxicated in New York.

Rush's suspension was the latest blow to Indiana's attempts to clean up its image.

The Pacers released the core of their team the past several years while trying to repair a reputation damaged by the brawl between Pacers players and Pistons fans in 2004 and several incidents after that in which Pacers players had brushes with the law.

Most recently, second-round draft pick Lance Stephenson was arrested earlier this month in New York on assault, menacing and harassment charges. Prosecutors said he pushed his girlfriend down a flight of stairs, then grabbed her and hit her head on the bottom step. The Pacers have not announced how they will deal with that incident. □





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'Exorcism' has slim box-office lead over 'Takers'



In this publicity image released by Lionsgate, clockwise from left, Patrick Fabian, Louis Herthum, Caleb Landry Jones and Ashley Bell are shown in a scene from, 'The Last Exorcism.'

(AP Photo/Lionsgate, Patti Perret)

By DAVID GERMAIN,
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — The fright flick "The Last Exorcism" and the heist thriller "Takers" were in a photo finish for the top spot at the weekend box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Lionsgate's "The Last Exorcism" had a thin lead with a \$21.3 million debut, closely followed by Sony's "Takers" with a \$21 million opening. They were close enough that

rankings could change after final numbers are released Monday.

After two weekends in the No. 1 spot, Lionsgate's action romp "The Expendables" slipped to third place with \$9.5 million, raising its total to \$82 million.

Playing in narrower release, a 3-D special edition of "Avatar" pulled in \$4 million, lifting the sci-fi sensation's domestic total to \$753.8 million. The new version of the 20th

Century Fox blockbuster adds nine minutes of footage.

Both "The Last Exorcism" and "Takers" debuted well above studio expectations, though the openings were modest compared with most big summer debuts.

Overall revenues came in at \$115 million, down 8 percent compared with the same weekend last year, when the horror tale "The Final Destination" opened on top with \$27.4 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"We've had two weeks of films being all stacked up very closely to one another, and that's a really tight margin between these two," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "But it's sort of a battle in a marketplace that really isn't setting the world on fire."

With summer blockbuster season generally over, late August often is a solid time to release scary movies such as "The Final Destination" and "Halloween II," which opened over the same weekend last

year.

"You don't see many low-budget genre films released in June or July or even early August," said David Spitz, head of distribution for Lionsgate. "You don't want to put 'The Last Exorcism' up against 'Inception' or these big blockbuster films."

"The Last Exorcism," about an exorcist trying to cast out a demon from a teenager, cost just \$2 million to produce, and Lionsgate bought domestic distribution rights for less than \$1 million.

"Takers," which cost a modest \$32 million to make, features Matt Dillon, Hayden Christensen, Paul Walker and Idris Elba in a thriller about bank robbers pursued by a tough cop.

Rory Bruer, Sony head of distribution, said he expected "Takers" to remain in second place, slightly behind "The Last Exorcism," once final figures are released Monday. Yet the two movies were pacing Hollywood to a strong finish to the summer season, he said. "I do think both pictures

were pretty terrific for ending summer with," Bruer said. "To have two pictures at \$20-plus million at the end of August is a good thing."

The extended version of James Cameron's "Avatar" played in just 812 theaters, compared with 2,874 for "The Last Exorcism" and 2,206 for "Takers."

Besides \$4 million domestically, the "Avatar" special edition added \$4.3 million overseas. The extra revenue is mere icing for the biggest modern blockbuster, whose initial release took in \$2.7 billion worldwide.

"There is no unhappy attached to 'Avatar,' because it's the greatest. It's always done business. It's the biggest picture in history," said Fox distribution executive Bert Livingston. "People bought tickets everywhere this weekend. There's no bad."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday. □

Beetle Bailey nears retirement age, but stays put

By STEPHEN SINGER,
Associated Press Writer

STAMFORD, Conn. — Beetle Bailey is slouching toward retirement age, but the lazy Army private won't be getting rest anytime soon from his tour of duty on newspaper comics pages.

The indolent wise guy, whose popularity soared when he enlisted during the Korean War, turns 60 on Saturday.

Mort Walker has been imaging Beetle every day for all those decades and says he'll continue with his creation until he's no longer able. "I don't know how I'd be retired," said Walker, 86. "I wake up every day with another idea."

The genial gags by Beetle and the cast of characters — Sarge and his dog, Otto, Gen. Amos Halftrack, Miss Buxley and others — are followed seven days a week by readers in 1,800 newspapers, which is "astronomically huge," said Brendan Burford, comics editor at King Features, the strip's syndicating service.

Charles Schulz, who created and worked on the enormously popular Peanuts strip for nearly 50 years before his death in 2000, came close to Walker's longevity. But "no one has worked on the same strip for 60 years with that kind of consistency," Burford said. "He's definitely in a pretty seriously elite class," he said. King Features has been celebrating Beetle's anniversary by running Sunday cartoons by Walker of Beetle re-enacting military events in history, such as celebrating the end of World War II or crossing the Delaware with George Washington.

The commemorative strips put Beetle in different venues, but Walker said he has otherwise kept Beetle as is over the decades. "He's still pretty much lazy," he said. "I haven't changed him a tremendous amount because I think that's his character that I want to keep. He represents the little man in all of us." "Beetle is the embodiment of everybody's

resistance to authority, all the rules and regulations which you've got to follow," Walker said. "He deals with it in his own way. And in a way, it's sort of what I did when I was in the Army. I just often times did what I wanted to do."

Beetle Bailey, originally called Spider, made his comic-strip debut as a smart aleck college student on Sept. 4, 1950, in 12 newspapers, according to King Features. It considered dropping the strip at the end of Walker's one-year contract, but when Beetle stumbled into an Army recruiting post in 1951 during the Korean War, the number of newspapers that picked up Beetle climbed.

Andrew Farago, curator of the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco, which is marking Beetle's anniversary with an exhibit, said Beetle, his pals and their uncomplicated gags have become familiar friends to readers over the years.

"I think people find that really comforting," he said.

Not everyone. Some women



have been angry about the caricature of a dumb blond secretary, the curvaceous Miss Buxley, Walker said.

"The women's right groups got so riled up against me they had a national agenda of attacking me," Walker said.

Burford said as an editor

he wants artists "to work creatively and make people laugh and smile," but had to restrain Walker at times.

"Sometimes you have to pull back on this leash," he said. "As the rights of women increased, he became more sensitive to it." □



Investors embark on treacherous month

By Edward Krudy

NEW YORK — Beaten-up investors go into September, historically a weak month for stocks, facing key reports on jobs, manufacturing and services. If those disappoint, the S&P 500 could breach technical support levels, pushing stocks yet lower.

The S&P 500 index has fallen nearly 13 percent since April as investors fret about the chance of a double-dip recession. But the index has found solid support around the 1,040 level, with a sustained move below that proving tough.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke boosted stocks on Friday by signaling the Fed is ready to act if the economy worsens. But more weakness in upcoming indicators like non-farm payrolls and Institute for Supply Management surveys would intensify fears the economy is sliding back into recession.

"There is this continual trend toward numbers falling short of expectations," said Nick Kalivas, equity analyst at MF Global in Chicago. "My guess is you'll see some selling come in again this week on these numbers."

The non-farm payroll report coming on Friday is expected to show 99,000 jobs were lost in August, swollen by redundancies among temporary census workers, while private sector hires grew by only 42,000.

Both the manufacturing and services sectors are expected to have experienced another slowdown in growth in August. The ISM manufacturing report is released on Wednesday, followed by the services sector report on Friday.

ATTRACTING BUYERS

The S&P 500 tested the 1,040 level twice during the past week, both times ending the day with gains. The level has consistently attracted buyers

over the past 10 months and was significantly breached only once during a brief stint in July.

"Here we are sitting at this important support level, having pulled back 8 percent (on an intraday basis) in three weeks, you potentially set up for a reversal," said Richard Ross, global technical strategist at Auerbach Grayson in New York.

The benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index finished last week at 1,064 on Friday. If the 1,040 level is breached, the S&P 500 could fall into a lower range around 1,020 to 1,010.

However, the index runs into resistance at its 14-day moving average at 1,076.65, providing only limited scope on the upside.

Investor sentiment remains negative. In the options market, investors bought S&P 500 puts, giving them the right to sell S&P futures at a fixed price, although the most actively traded option on the S&P 500 (SPY.P) ETF was the \$107 call, suggesting some bullish trades ahead of next week.

"Overall investor sentiment in the option market has become very skeptical, with put buying widely exceeding call purchases," said Ryan Detrick, technical senior analyst at Schaeffer's Investment Research in Cincinnati.

The put-to-call ratio, a measure of investor sentiment, was at 0.61 as of Thursday's close compared to a 21-day ratio of 0.59.

Investors will be closely following comments from executives at big industrial companies like General Electric (GE.N) and Boeing (BA.N) at Morgan Stanley's Global Industrials Unplugged Conference this week.

MAJOR REVENUE ESTIMATES

Intel Corp (INTC.O) cut its third-quarter revenue estimates in a surprise on Friday. Although investors shook off the news after an initial fall, bleak outlooks from large corporations at the heart of the economy could rattle investors.

As usual there will be a series of secondary labor market data playing second fiddle ahead of the Friday's jobs number. ADP's jobs report on Wednesday is expected to show the private sector added 18,000 jobs in August, down from 42,000 in July. □



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke listens to questions as he testifies before a House Financial Services hearing on the "Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy" on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 22, 2010

Sanofi-Aventis makes \$18.5 billion offer for Genzyme

By Jessica Hall

James Regan

PHILADELPHIA/PARIS — France's Sanofi-Aventis on Sunday publicly disclosed its \$18.5 billion, \$69-per-share cash offer for Genzyme Corp in a bid to rouse shareholders after failing to engage the U.S. biotechnology company in merger talks.

Sanofi said it would consider all options to complete the transaction, hinting it would consider a hostile takeover bid.

The so-called "bear hug" letter aims to pressure Genzyme to respond to the offer or justify to its shareholders why it has not held negotiations.

"It is our preference to work together with you and the Genzyme board to reach a mutually agreeable transaction," Sanofi Chief Executive Chris Viehbacher wrote to his counterpart at Genzyme, Henri Termeer.

"Your continued refusal to enter into constructive discussions will serve only to further delay the ability of your shareholders to receive the substantial value represented by our all-cash offer," the letter said.

Genzyme was not immediately available to comment.

Sources previously told Reuters that Genzyme wants an offer of at least \$75 per share before Sanofi could review its private financial records. Some shareholders want as much as \$80 a share to clinch a deal.

"We had one phone call in general terms

and (Genzyme) immediately called a board meeting and said they weren't for sale without me even saying the price," Viehbacher said on a conference call.

When asked about how Sanofi will proceed, Viehbacher said: "There is no reason to be discussing the next step when we are at this step now ... No reason to be discussing another price."

News of Sanofi's initial approach to Genzyme emerged late in July and the French drugmaker sent a written expression of interest on July 29.

Sanofi said that Genzyme rebuffed the offer on August 11, but after some persuasion, agreed to a meeting of financial advisers on August 24.

Sanofi said it had taken into account an "anticipated recovery in Genzyme's performance in 2011," as the biotech company tries to rectify manufacturing problems that led to shortages of two of its top drugs -- Cerezyme, its drug to treat Gaucher disease, and Fabrazyme, its drug for Fabry disease -- and hit its stock price over the past year.

Sanofi said it had financing for the offer from BNP Paribas and JP Morgan and that it has not talked to Genzyme activist shareholders. Shareholders Relational Investors and Carl Icahn hold 3.8 percent and 4.9 percent of Genzyme, respectively.

Analysts have said they expect a deal to be finalized in the range of \$74 to \$77 a share. □

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Study: More omega-3 fats didn't aid heart patients

By STEPHANIE NANO,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Eating more heart-healthy omega-3 fats provided no additional benefit in a study of heart attack survivors who were already getting good care, Dutch researchers report.

After nearly 3 1/2 years, there was no difference in deaths, heart attacks and other heart problems between those who ate margarine with added omega-3 fatty acids and those who didn't, the study found. The results don't mean that getting more of the essential nutrient has no value. Several studies have offered evidence that the fats — mostly from fish oil — reduce heart disease.

But for heart patients who are carefully treated “adding a little bit of omega-3 fatty acid does not seem to make a difference,” said Alice Lichtenstein, a Tufts University nutrition professor, who was not involved in the research.

Omega-3 fatty acids are thought to help reduce the risk of abnormal heartbeats, slow the growth of plaque that can clog arteries and lower harmful fats called triglycerides.

In recent years, omega-3 has been added to some foods such as margarine and eggs, or labels highlight the omega-3 content of foods like tuna fish.

“Now they're popping up in the most unexpected places,” including trail mix, said Lichtenstein.

Two kinds of omega-3s come from wild oily fish such

as salmon, mackerel and tuna. A third type comes from plants; sources include walnuts, flaxseed, soybeans and canola oil.

It's generally recommended that people eat one or two servings of fish a week, said the study's leader, Daan Kromhout of Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

“The results of this trial do not change that,” he said, noting that there were no harmful side effects.

“It's still a good thing to eat fish once or twice a week.”

The study's participants were taking the best medicines to prevent future heart trouble, and that could be why adding a low-dose of omega-3s offered no extra protection, the researchers said. The volunteers were also older and entered the study years after their heart attacks, in contrast to heart patients in earlier research who did benefit by taking fish oil pills.

The findings were presented Sunday at the European Society of Cardiology meeting in Stockholm and published online by the New England Journal of Medicine.

For the study, Kromhout and his colleagues recruited 4,837 heart attack survivors in the Netherlands who were 60 to 80 years old. They were randomly assigned to eat one of four kinds of margarine — regular margarine or ones with added omega-3s derived from fish, plants or both.

Kromhout said they used margarine because it was easier than fish oil supplements to make all versions look and taste identical.

On average, the patients ate about 4 teaspoons (18.8 grams) of margarine a day, spread on bread at meals, Kromhout said. During the 3 1/2 years they were followed, 671 patients, or 14 percent, had a heart problem or died. There was no difference between the groups, no matter what kind of margarine they ate.

Dr. Stephen Kopecky, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., said it may have been a matter of too little, too late — the dose was small and the patients were enrolled many years after their initial heart attack — on average four years.

“If you wait too long, sometimes you miss that window to benefit them,” Kopecky said.

He said he tells his heart patients to take 1,000 milligrams of fish oil daily.

“The benefit potentially is so great, that we tend to put patients on it quite often,” he said.

Since the Dutch study was in heart attack survivors, Lichtenstein said it still isn't known whether omega-3s can protect against a first heart attack or help those patients who don't get such good care.

The study was funded by the Netherlands Heart Foundation and the U.S. Institutes of Health. Unilever, which makes an omega-3 enriched margarine, provided the margarines. □

Medicare expands coverage to help smokers quit

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — They've lived with the health warnings about smoking for much of their lives and doubtless seen the ill effects on friends, relatives and even themselves, yet about 4.5 million older people in the U.S. keep on lighting up. Medicare is finally catching up to most private insurers by providing counseling for anyone on the program who's trying to kick the habit.

Dr. Barry Straube, Medicare's chief medical officer, says it's never too late to quit, even for lifelong smokers.

“The elderly can respond to smoking cessation counseling even if they have been smoking for 30 years or more,” says Straube. “We do know we can see a reduction in the death rate and complications

from smoking-related illnesses.” Not only cancer, heart disease and lung problems, which can kill, but also gastric reflux, osteoporosis and other ailments that undermine quality of life.

Smoking-related illnesses cost Medicare tens of billions a year. Straube cites a two-decade estimate of \$800 billion, from 1995 through 2015.

Medicare already covers drugs used to help smokers quit, as well as counseling for those who have developed a smoking-related illness. But starting immediately, the program will expand the benefit to cover up to eight counseling sessions a year for people who want to quit.

Next year, such counseling will be free, under a provision in President Barack Obama's health care law that eliminates co-payments for

preventive services.

Older smokers often don't get as much attention from doctors as do younger ones. “They just figure, ‘Well, it's too late,’” said Straube, that the damage is already done. That may start to change now.

About one in 10 seniors smoke, compared with one in five people among the U.S. population as a whole. It turns out that smokers age 65 and older present a medical paradox.

Many started when it was fashionable to light up. They are more likely than younger smokers to be seriously hooked on nicotine and less likely to attempt quitting. But research shows that their odds of success are greater if they do try to give up the habit.

Older smokers who receive counseling are significantly more likely to quit than those who only get standard medical care. One study of

elderly heart attack patients found that those who got counseling to help quit smoking were more likely to be alive five years later.

It's unclear why older people who try to quit have better luck than younger smokers.

Some experts think it's because older smokers are more motivated, perhaps from having seen a loved one die of cancer or heart disease, or by recognizing how the cigarette habit has left its mark in their own bodies, anything from wrinklier skin to shortness of breath.

Straube has his own theory: “They're under less stress,” he said. “They are not working anymore, and they have more time.” Medicare's new smoking cessation benefit will also be available to younger people who are covered by the program because of a disability. About 1 million of them are smokers. □

One More Way to Avoid Diabetes: Breastfeed

By ALICE PARK

New moms know that breastfeeding can be good for babies, providing them with much-needed nutrition as well as a shot of antibodies and other cells that help build immune systems. Now, evidence suggests that the practice may keep the mothers themselves healthier too.

Researchers led by Dr. Eleanor Bimla Schwarz at University of Pittsburgh found that women who breastfeed are half as likely to develop type 2 diabetes as women who do not. That's a big statistical difference, and although it's not clear what is behind the gap, scientists speculate that it has something to do with pregnancy pounds that expectant moms gain. Breastfeeding helps moms lose the abdominal fat they gain during pregnancy more efficiently. And while abdominal - or visceral - fat is important for the gestating baby's development, it can be detrimental to a mother's health if it continues to build after delivery, since it's been linked to greater risk of metabolic disorders such as insulin resistance and heart disease as well as diabetes.

"When you look at mammals, you have to consider lactation as part of the pregnancy experience," says Schwarz. "When women don't breastfeed after pregnancy, or lactation is curtailed or prematurely discontinued, women end up retaining more fat than they would have if they breastfed. Then the mother's health can suffer." (Read about mothers opting for breast-milk, not breastfeeding.)

Animal studies have helped reveal other reasons this is so. Breastfeeding, those studies found, can increase a mother's response to insulin, allowing her to break down glucose more effectively and keep sugar metabolism in check. Lactation also inhibits hormones that promote growth hormone activity, which can also affect insulin levels. In addition, studies have shown that when women do develop diabetes during pregnancy, known as gestational diabetes, breastfeeding the newborn can improve their glucose metabolism and help stabilize the condition. (See photos of pregnant belly art.)

Despite the growing body of research establishing the health benefits of breastfeeding, moms in the U.S. remain resistant. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that new mothers breastfeed their infants for at least six months, yet only 14% of women do. For the 86% who don't, Schwarz says lifestyle interventions such as exercise and changes in the diet can go a long way toward lowering their diabetes risk - even if it doesn't replace the health dividends the babies would be receiving if they were breastfed. "This [study] shows that perhaps counseling these women to try to reduce their personal risk of developing diabetes should be something that doctors should consider," says Schwarz. "And if you are pregnant or thinking about getting pregnant, or currently breastfeeding, then stick with it because it's important to both your baby's and your own health." □



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Los Angeles Zoo is home to 22 baby Komodo dragons



This image provided by the Los Angeles Zoo shows two of the 22 Komodo dragons that were born at the zoo over an 11 day period beginning Aug. 8, 2010 in Los Angeles. Komodos, the worlds largest dragons, are cannibalistic and usually eat their young and eggs of their own species, so zoo officials say staying alive is tricky for a hatchling. Los Angeles is one of the few zoos in North America to have successfully bred Komodos. The curator says 11 babies will eventually go to the Columbus (Ohio) Zoo.

(AP Photo/Los Angeles Zoo)

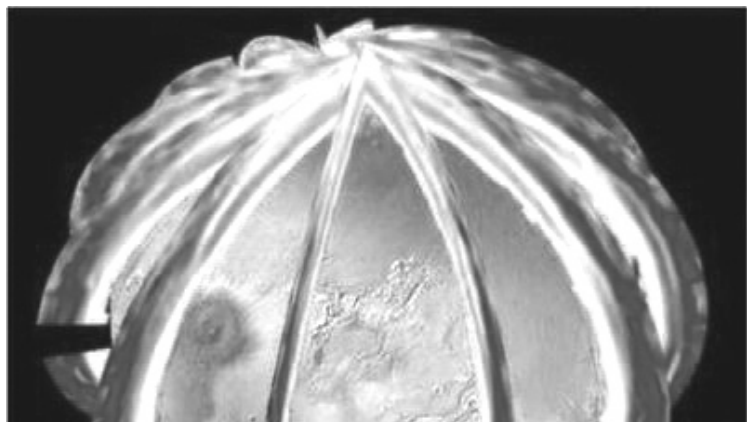
By SUE MANNING,
Associated Press Writer
LOS ANGELES – Twenty-two Komodo dragons have hatched at the Los Angeles Zoo this month, giving a modest boost to the world's

endangered population. The zoo's adult female Komodo, Lima, laid the eggs on Jan. 22. The first one popped through its soft-sided egg shell on Aug. 8 and hatchlings kept coming for

two weeks. Komodos are the world's largest lizards and are popular attractions at zoos from the United States to Europe. All 2,500 left in the wild can be found at the 700-square-mile Komodo National Park in Indonesia. Komodos are cannibalistic and usually eat their young and eggs of their own species, so zoo officials say staying alive is tricky for a hatchling. This is the first time the Los Angeles Zoo has succeeded at a breeding attempt. It joins fewer than 10 other zoos in North America that have made it work. Eleven babies will eventually go to the Columbus Zoo in Ohio and the others will go to zoos assigned by the Species Survival Program, curator Ian Recchio said Thursday. Los Angeles will just keep Lima and the adult male, Buru. It is exciting to know "the hatchlings from this clutch

will go on to help ensure the survival of the species," Recchio said. Hatchlings are 14 to 20 inches long and weigh around 3 ounces, but they will grow to about 9 feet and can weigh 200 pounds or more. Males tend to be slightly larger than females and sometimes have yellow spots on their snouts but are otherwise gray. They have about 60 needle-like teeth that will grow back quickly if one falls out. They will cut their prey into sections and then swallow without chewing. They drink rarely, getting their fluids from the food they eat. There are no Komodos on display at the zoo now, but before the offspring all leave Los Angeles, some of them will be shown at the Winnick Family Children's Zoo. In the wild, a young Komodo will sprint up the nearest tree to avoid being eaten by adults. They will stay in the trees and

eat insects and other lizards until they get too heavy for the tree. By then, they will have developed enough to protect themselves from adult Komodos on the ground. Komodo dragons in the wild eat 80 percent of their weight and then go without food for several weeks. They will eat snakes, other lizards, reptile and bird eggs, carrion, deer, pigs, goats and dogs. They will even try to eat larger animals, like horses and water buffalo. The dragons are probably best known for their venomous saliva. It is naturally harmless, but picks up deadly pathogens because of the food they eat, Recchio said. The Komodos are immune to the bacteria, but the animals or humans in their path can be in nearly instant trouble. The animals are believed to have descended from a larger lizard on Indonesia's main island Java or Australia around 30,000 years ago. □




In this image from The Mars Climate Sounder instrument on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, released by NASA August 27, 2010, shows the mapping of the vertical distribution of temperatures, dust, water vapor and ice clouds in the Martian atmosphere as the orbiter flies a near-polar orbit. The data depicted in this image is from March 1, 2008, which was during early spring on northern Mars.

Young Mars Crater Contains Water Ice, Photo Shows


Zoë Macintosh

A fresh crater on Mars has revealed a hidden cache of frozen water in some of the latest photos from a powerful NASA spacecraft. A recent false color image from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter clearly shows a patch of Mars water ice at the bottom of a 20-foot (6-meter) wide crater in the Martian surface. The photo came from the orbiter's high-resolution HiRISE camera. The young crater is in the northern hemisphere of Mars. Scientists suspect it formed only recently, sometime between April 2004 and January of this year, said Nathan Bridges, a HiRISE science team member at the University of Arizona. Bridges said the icy crater is farther south than some other sightings of buried water ice. It appeared in one of hundreds of Mars photos taken between June 6 and July 7 of this year. "It's showing we're getting ice pretty far south," Bridges said. "As we continue to look at these things it's a good way to determine where shallow ice is on Mars." The ice patch covers an area of up to 20 square feet (2 square meters). It "is probably at the same depth and has a similar origin to that excavated by the Phoenix lander back in 2008," he wrote in an image description. NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander touched down

in the Martian arctic in May 2008 and found evidence of water ice just beneath the surface using a small scoop at the end of its robotic arm. This also is not the first time ice-filled Martian craters have been found and photographed by the HiRISE camera. The orbiting spacecraft first spotted exposed ice in Martian craters in August 2008. The ice did not last, it ultimately turned straight into vapor in a process known as sublimation. There is no definitive proof of liquid water on Mars today. Scientists were surprised at the time to find the water ice was 99 percent pure, with just a smidge of Mars dust mixed in. They speculated that the water in the ice is "actually a few hundred thousand years old," originating from a period when the planet was liquid, Bridges said. A layer of ice could have remained insulated from the Martian environment for up to 400,000 years until an impact disrupted its protective covering, researchers have said. "That is why people think it's so pure, because it's fairly young and hasn't been mixed in with other materials," Bridges said. Come the next Martian summer "Bridges said, "the HiRISE team will likely take additional pictures to check up on the crater □



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Venezolanos protestan por ola de violencia

CARACAS (AP) - Opositores del presidente Hugo Chávez marcharon por las calles de Caracas el sábado para protestar contra la violencia que cuesta miles de vidas cada año en Venezuela y que ha estado empeorando en el último decenio. Manifestantes golpearon tambores y portaron carteles con calaveras y tibias cruzadas, al tiempo que coreaban lemas como “¡Basta ya!” y “No más muertes”. Periodistas estimaron que la muchedumbre era de unas 1.500 personas. Un coche fúnebre pasó con la marcha, con numerosos carteles, incluyendo uno que decía: “¿Quién será el próximo ocupante?”. La enfermera Gladys Pérez, una de los manifestantes, dijo que estaba anonadada

por la cantidad de personas que llegan cada fin de semana con heridas de bala a la sala de emergencias en el hospital donde ella trabaja. “Nosotros hemos llegado a tener hasta 60 heridos en un fin de semana”, dijo Pérez, de 55 años, añadiendo que en sus tres decenios como enfermera ella nunca ha visto tanta sangre. “Aquí hay una guerra no declarada, no sé como llamarlo”, dijo. Venezuela tiene una de las tasas más altas de asesinatos en Latinoamérica. El gobierno no ha dado a conocer estadísticas anuales completas recientemente, pero el año pasado, las autoridades dijeron que hubo más de 12.000 asesinatos en el país en los primeros 11 meses del 2009. El Observatorio Vene-



Una carroza fúnebre cubierta de carteles recorre una avenida de Caracas, el sábado 28 de agosto del 2010, durante una protesta contra la violencia (AP Foto/Leonardo Ramírez).

zolano de Violencia, una organización dedicada al estudio del crimen, ha estimado que ocurrieron más de 16.000 asesinatos

el año pasado en este país de 28 millones de habitantes _comparado con menos de 6.000 en 1999, cuando Chávez asumió la

presidencia. De acuerdo con su conteo, ha habido más de 123.000 homicidios entre 1998 y el 2009. □

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THE Sopranos

PIANO BAR

Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2010 Aruba



A consummate piano man and entertainer, Luppy has been a crowd favorite at a number of night spots in St. Louis and is now a hit on the international scene. With a solid background in jazz, Luppy also specializes in Rat Pack tunes, Motown, Rock 'n' Roll, '80s music, contemporary pop and American sing-along classics. His upbeat performances will rally audiences into that partying mood.

Luppy has nearly two decades of professional piano playing under his belt; he scored his first gig when he was just 12! This versatile musician has also achieved success leading hip-hop and jazz bands, on the road, and in the studio.

Wednesday night is Ladies Champagne Night
from 8:00 till midnight, champagne by the glass at \$4.00, ladies only. Bottle service also available.



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